

Newsletter – February 2024

New Group – Singles Lunch.

Christine Codd.

Meetings will be Wednesday on week 2.

We met for our **First Lunch at The Ship in East Tilbury** and had a very enjoyable get together. The food was very good and it went very well. We appointed Christine Codd as our organiser and have decided to start a “WhatsApp” group as the best way to keep in touch. **We will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month but in February that will be Valentine’s Day so we decided to meet in the 21st February instead.**



Photo sent by Sandra Isaacson

Speaker at Today's General Meeting

On Thursday 8th February our speaker is Mary Smith. The title of Mary's talk is "A Schoolgirl's War". Mary's involvement in the subject of her talk came about because, while she was headteacher of a large secondary school, they made two fascinating discoveries which gave them a vivid and unusual insight into school life in WW2. One of these was the uncovering of an extensive set of tunnels used as underground classrooms, and the other was the discovery of a fascinating and exquisite set of paintings of wartime schooling created by a young art teacher as the war unfolded. These paintings, lost for 70 years, provide a unique and enthralling record of wartime school life as experienced by children across the country.

Speaker for Thursday 14th March 2024

Our speaker for Thursday 14th March 2024 is Chris Truran. Chris joined the Metropolitan Police on 6th March 1975. He trained as a Scenes of Crimes Officer (SOCO) and worked in central, north and north west London. During his 38½ years he examined over 25,000 crime scenes ranging from Shop-lifting to Murder. When he started examining crime scenes DNA was in its embryonic stage.

During his 38½ years as a Scenes of Crimes Officer, Chris experience many occasions when the stupidity of criminals became their downfall. He shares many times that he had to laugh at their behaviour believing that a term in prison might help them mend their ways (unlikely). There is no science in this talk just amazement at how stupid they were.

Thank you from St Luke's

Dear Bernie

Thank you for your generous donation of £180 which was raised at one of your recent meetings .This wonderful donation will help us to continue to provide specialist palliative and end of life care to the communities we serve in Basildon & Thurrock. Please forward our sincere thanks to everyone that made this donation possible. : emilycox@stlukeshospice.co.uk

COMMITTEE CHAT

There is good news and there is bad news.

First the bad news. In the December Committee Chat we advised that hire charges for The Springhouse were to increase by 25% from 1st January 2024. Well, the bad news is that our Treasurer has now been advised that these hire charges will increase by 50% to £300 per booking from 1st January 2024. That's an additional £1,200 per annum!

The good news is that the Executive Committee (EC) have considered the revised budget presented by our Treasurer and agreed to still maintain membership renewal fees at £15-00 for 2024/2025. However, I am sure everyone can appreciate that this will not be sustainable in the longer term.

In the next months, the EC will be considering all possible actions that may be taken in the future to offset this increase.

Last February we held a Coffee Morning for group leaders and volunteers which proved very successful. It gave the opportunity for the EC to meet and discuss a range of topics with those members who really make our u3a tick. We will be holding a similar event on **12th March**, when again we will be discussing the opportunities and threats to our activities to ensure we can all enjoy them for the future.

Whilst ensuring our u3a operates as efficiently and effectively as possible, the EC also keeps tabs on the national u3a scene. In the past month we have received advice about a revised model constitution and plans for an Essex u3as Network. We are examining the former and monitoring the latter. Anything that impacts on our u3a will be considered carefully before any commitment is made. Especially any financial commitment.

We have had some rough weather over the past few weeks, but at least it is not too much longer to 20th March, the Vernal equinox, when Spring begins.

More Committee Chat next month.

Important Notice on Membership Renewals by the Treasurer.

These will be taken at the February General Meeting and your Committee have agreed to keep the fee **at £15** for the coming year. However, to achieve this we shall need to make a charge for any people wishing to order the TAM Magazines.

In the past we have included this in the cost but now we are being charged from Central Office for this and the new charge will be £4 per year for anybody wishing to order TAM. This will be collected at time of renewal.

Payment Methods

The preferred method of payment is Bank Transfer which is easy for anybody on Internet Banking. ***The only thing I ask is for those paying using this method is that they send me an email confirming the payment. Also please put in the information box when paying, your name and membership number.***

Alternative methods are of course cheque and cash, with this year an added option to pay by debit or credit card.

For those using Bank Transfer our bank details are

Sort Code 20-34-69
Account Number 33122387.

Please don't forget to email Paul Brice

Please remember to mute your phone during the Meeting.

If you don't have your new card then get in touch with the Membership Secretary. You will need to register your new number with any Interest Groups that you belong to.

Interest Groups

Please Note. Keep us all safe by not attending Group Meetings when you have a temperature or other symptoms of illness.

Groups may be found in alphabetical order in this Newsletter.

Amblers

Tessa Duggan 01375 670212

Jenny Radford 01375 676338

It was -2C when we began our first amble of the year at Langdon Nature Reserve (Plotlands), but the sun was shining and we were all well wrapped up against the cold. The lake was completely frozen over, with ducks and swans walking gingerly

on the solid surface. We walked carefully too, in places where the puddles on the path had iced over and there were frosty patches. But the walk was refreshing and enjoyable, a lovely start to the new year.



Our February amble will be at **Gloucester Park**, Cranes Farm Road, Basildon SS14 3DE (Basildon Sporting Village), on **Thursday 15th February**. We will meet at **10.30am** in the car park, near the entrance/exit gate. Look forward to seeing you there.

Photos by Jenny Radford

Art Group

Jim Westgarth 01375 859432

Sally Taylor

Bird Watching

Dave Snow 01375 461885

We had a really good day birdwatching in January.

Seven of us went to Two Tree Island, beside Leigh-on-Sea where we saw some super birds.

The top twelve were: – Lapwings, Wimbrel, Red Shank, Turnstone, Egret, Brent Geese, Teal, Widgeon, Dunlin, Meadow Pipit, Sanderling and a lone Kestrel keeping her eye on us as we headed back to our cars.

In Dave's absence we were lucky enough to have Kim Nicholas helping us to spot and identify birds.

Now we are all looking forward to our next trip.

Book Group

Ann Bailey

Dawn Lloyd-Warne 01375 461885

December to January we read *Away with the Penguins* by Hazel Prior. It's the story of a lady of advanced years who decides she wants to help fund penguin research, and makes her own way to the research station in Antarctica. It was quite amusing and informative, so in a couple of months, we will read the sequel. It's great when you find an author you like and get other books by them.

We didn't have much discussion at the January meeting. We were far too busy enjoying Afternoon Tea at The Ship in East Tilbury. It was lovely to sit, chat, be waited on and enjoy the afternoon as you can see.

Photo by Michael Farman



Wednesday Boules

Dave Jardine 07551 952211

We are back playing on **7th February 2024 each Wednesday** after our winter break and our Boules New Year Lunch at Top Meadow.

We meet behind the Springhouse at 10.15 for 10.30 start. After we play, we enjoy a well-deserved coffee and the good biscuits.

The cost is £2 it covers the cost even if you do both groups. We have spare boules if you wish to give it a try. Look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday afternoon players

Paul Brice 07788452852

Wednesday Afternoon Boules continue **every week starting at 1.30pm.** We play behind The Springhouse Club at a cost of £2 per week. If you are unable to come along on the afternoon you would be welcome to come along to the morning instead. The 2 Groups are interchangeable.

PÉTANQUE/Boules

Colin Munro 07770 854318

Carol Munro

Please get in touch if you are interested.

Canasta

Pauline Kerridge 01375 462232

Every Wednesday at the Springhouse Club at 2.00. Everyone welcome.

Coffee cake and chat

Jean Jardine 07551 952211

We had our first meeting in January when about 25 members joined us to enjoy home-made cakes – coffee and walnuts, Victoria sponge, chocolate cake, Bakewell tart, blueberry and white chocolate gluten free cake.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 5th February and the following meeting is on Monday 4th March at the Springhouse club 10.00 to 12.00**

You do not have to be a member of the Springhouse Club to join us for a friendly morning with new and old friends – cost £5 for coffee and cake.

Our Welfare Officer is Colin Munro.

Mobile: 07770 854318

Contact Colin if you know of any member who is in need of our thoughts and best wishes, due to bereavement or serious illness.

Please give their name and the reason for the need.

It is most helpful if you can include family member names where necessary.

Couples Lunch

Dave & Jean Angus 07711 359127



This month we visited the Langdon Hills Golf Club Restaurant for our Couples Lunch and a grand time was had by all. The staff were extremely helpful and the Waitress kindly took the photograph for us. The food was also very good with a great selection of food well cooked. Our table was placed next to the window so we had a glorious view across Langdon Hills seeing Canary Wharf in the far distance. We could actually see what was going on outside unlike in the Watermill which was very dark plus the curtains were kept closed so not a place to be revisited.

The usual chatting, laughter and catching up with each other went on but unfortunately Jeanette and Michael could not join us this month due to household plumbing issues at the last moment which hopefully are behind them now but meant they could not join the fun this time so no Michael's jokes to report on this month. Dave shared an old joke instead which was "a chap was given a suspended sentence ... they hung him!" Members of the Group have kindly shared details of lots of interesting restaurants for us to visit throughout the year so a good time to look forward to by us all. As a "test run" Gloria and Terry suggested lunch with Jean and Dave at a very new Restaurant called Eyna that Members may have seen being built recently near the Watermill in Basildon and it was great, so will be appearing on our lunch list very soon. The Turkish Food menu was very different and enjoyable, which we shared with Couples Group Members and well worth a visit.

So "here's to the next time" when we meet on 29th February ... yes it is Leap Year so we get an extra day in our lives!

Any Couples wishing to join the fun please contact Dave and Jean.

Cribbage

John Green

We meet on Tuesdays fortnightly in Gardner Hall, Fobbing at 1.30pm. The next dates are Tuesday February 20th, Tuesday March 5th and Tuesday March 19th. I am really pleased that we are getting a regular attendance of about 12 now. Cribbage is an easy game to pick up. All welcome.

Family History

Sue Green 01375 676441

Peter Craggs

There were 18 of us at our January meeting. We looked at occupations that we had discovered our ancestors had followed and shared the information. Thank you to you all for coming prepared to say a little bit. It made my day that everyone joined in. The selections were many and various—Agricultural labourers, bookbinders, marine engineers, miners, postal workers, merchant seamen etc. We come from a diverse set of people.

Our next session in the Evangelical Church Hall in Fobbing Road will be on Wednesday February 21st at 2pm. This time we will be looking at which ancestor we wished we could sit down and have a conversation with and why? This could be very interesting!

At our March meeting on Wednesday 20th at 2pm (in the Evangelical Church Hall in Fobbing Road), we are having a speaker. Kathy Chater, a London based speaker and author, is coming to give us another of her talks. This time the subject is insanity. The talk offers clues about possible sufferers from mental illness in the family, what kinds of records there are and where to look for them. This talk will be open to any member of the u3a at our usual meeting fee of £1 which includes tea and cake. If you are not a regular member of our group, can you email Sue to let her know you are coming so we can have enough chairs available.

Flower Arranging

Christine Lambert 07972 879173

Linda Tilbury 07928 221626



We meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month at the Gateway Centre, from 10am to 12noon. (The cost is £2.00) We are a friendly group and you are very welcome to join us. There is a cafe where you can purchase a cup of tea or coffee. Just ring or turn up if you want to know more.

This month it was the winter jasmine that gave us some colour in the garden, when we needed some, it flowers a beautiful yellow and it's leaves follow. It is very easy to propagate.

For our first meeting we decided to not

have a theme, we all did our own choice, it was nice to see everybody and we had some really nice displays, all different. The second week the theme was asymmetrical,- which it was interesting and we had a few



questions about it. We all came up with a display of our interpretation, they were all very different again.



French Basic Conversation

Diane Wallace

Sally Taylor

*This is a small group by choice, because it allows every member a chance to speak. **We meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons of the month, and each member takes it in turn to host sessions in their home.** We have some existing knowledge of French vocabulary and grammar and this is put to use to form sentences in order to speak to one another. The members go out of their way to help and encourage one another.*

Gallery Visits

Jenny Lees

01375 360786

Chris Henderson

Gardening Allotment News

Michael Farman

February

First it was HENK, then ISHA and finally JOCELYN. These three named storms in January brought wet, windy and icy conditions which has hampered digging progress at the allotment. I have been trying to dig the patch adjacent to the blackberry bramble, where I plan to plant potatoes. It was, however, a bonus that when the grass, weed and soil surface was frozen, it was easy to spade off without taking away too much of the soil. I was able to clear off most of the surface weed and grass at the other end of the patch. But when the soil thawed it was wet, and the muddy surface made it difficult to stand and dig without slipping over. Fortunately, I was able to dig at the other end of the patch where it was a bit drier so will eventually meet in the middle. I had part of this patch covered in plastic to prevent weed growth. Unfortunately pulling back the plastic revealed a mass of couch grass and bindweed roots just beneath the soil surface. Slows down the digging removing it.

I have bought my seed potatoes and onion sets from the Chadwell Allotment shop. Have till around April to complete the digging.

When conditions did not allow digging, I began the thorny task of tying in the Blackberry bramble. Not that easy with gloved hands. Noticed one of the free strawberry plants has no new green growth in the centre. It may grow, so will give it a bit longer.

In the Greenhouse I have started off a few spring cabbage, cauliflower and onion seed. Although the weather may have turned a bit warmer recently, don't be in too much of a hurry to plant flower seeds. Noticed the spring bulbs in the garden pushing up through the soil. I have a few Dahlia seeds to plant, plus a few other free packets of seed. In a couple of weeks, I will sow tomato, chilli and pepper seed as they are slow germinators and slow growers.

My sweet peas are growing but only have two pairs of leaves. Sweet pea seed can still be sown. Needs a deep pot as the roots do not like disturbance when planting. Can use a homemade container made from paper wrapped around a tin can. Put about six seeds around the edge and push into the compost. Place the pot on a saucer so you can water it and then place in a warm window sill to germinate. A cut off plastic bottle will provide a mini greenhouse!! Have fun!

Golf

Paul Brice 07788 452852

The Golf Group meets every **Monday at 10.15am for a 10.45am start**. We play at **Dunton Hills** on the Par 3 course which is currently charged at £9 for 18 holes. Standard of play is varied so anybody should be able to fit in.

We occasionally play on full courses so please make your interest known if you wish to join us on these occasions.

All players at playing at their own risk. Also we are now playing from Winter Tees.

The only thing we ask is if you do plan to come along then please let me know as we occasionally change to start times to suit the course and ourselves.

We also have a **What's App group** so if you wish to join that and receive updates, then let me have your Mobile number.

Holiday Travel

Carol Smith 07845 233640

Mel Fox

Italian

Verena Carter 07808513453

This meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month**.

The venue is the Evangelical Church Fobbing Road from 2 till 4 o clock.

We are progressing well with our group trying to expand our vocabulary and grammar in a fun way. We can only take any new members if they have some knowledge of basic Italian.

The book which we use is **BBC Talk Italian 1** which is available on Amazon if any new members wish to get it.

Line Dancing 1

Susan Moss 07905314987

Beverley Brice 07522368810

Christine Hartnell 07771554174

At Horndon Village Hall every Wednesday 10.15–11.45 – cost £2.

We are still looking for new or returning line dancers as there are still spaces



available. Come along and give it a try! Nothing too advanced or difficult and if **you are a complete novice come along at 10am for 15 minutes of one-to-one instruction** to help you learn some basic steps and a simple dance.

It's never too late to start and it is fun.

Recently one of our members had a special birthday, Brenda is still dancing at 90 years of age!!!! Contact Sue or Bev for further details.

Line Dancing 2

Carol Munro 07766 035554

Sue Moss 07905 314987

Every other Tuesday starting at 10.00 – 11.00 at the Methodist Hall in Horndon-on-the-Hill. As our numbers have now grown at our line dancing group, we are sorry to advise that we have now had to close our group, due to the size of our hall.

Local History Group

Barbara Ward

We will be at the Evangelical Church Hall on 4th Monday of the month at 2.00 pm. Please get in touch if you are interested.

My phone number for queries about the Local History group is 07748 151735 and – please do not just turn up at a meeting but ring or email me first to ensure there will be space.

Local Research Projects

Diane Wallace

Sue Green 01375 676441

London Walks

Dave Snow 07490 069740

Brian McDonald

Walk Report Jan 24

For our first walk of the New Year we decided to look at some of the haunts of Jack the Ripper. But first we had to reorganise our travel arrangements as C2C had changed their peak times for our return journey. So it was an earlier start for everybody, on the 9.35 train. Our first stop was at Mitre Square, Aldgate. This

was where Catherine Eddowes was found, minus her left kidney and womb. We passed the Bevis Marks Synagogue and turned into a small yard previously called Exchange Buildings. This was where a group of anarchists were trying to break into the rear of a jeweller's shop when they were surprised by police. Three police were shot dead by the thieves who later finished up in Sidney Street, scene of a long siege.

Around Petticoat Lane we heard about Ikey Solomon, a notorious fence believed to be the model for Dickens' Fagin. Then it was on to the White Hart Pub (too early for us), where Severin Klosowski, later George Chapman, had a barber's shop. He had also trained as a surgeon before coming to England and is believed by many to be Jack the Ripper. Nearby was where Martha Tabram was discovered having been stabbed 39 times. Passing through Flower & Dean Walk we came to where Mary Kelly was found with bits of her scattered around her room. It was then to the Ten Bells pub, a haunt of many of the Ripper's victims and lunch in Spitalfields Market.

No 29 Hanbury Street was where Annie Chapman was found with her throat cut and her intestines ripped out and Durwood Street, formerly Buck's Row, was where Mary Ann Nichols (Polly) was found with her stomach ripped open.

From a distance we then saw the Blind Beggar pub and Sidney Street where Peter the Painter, the lead robber, evaded the police after the long siege before getting to the site of Dutfield's Yard where Elizabeth Stride was found. In the same street we heard about Tommy Flowers who built Colossus at Bletchley Park with Alan Turing.

At Cable Street we heard about the battle which was fought in 1936 before coming to the Brown Bear pub where George Cornell knocked Ronnie Kray unconscious and we know what Ronnie's revenge was!

After all the talk of prostitution, robbery, battles and pubs, there was just time for many of us to get a quick drink at Goodman's Field before beating the peak time limit on the train.

Lunch and Chat

Chris Brown 01708 852023



Lunch and Chat meets on the first Friday of the month 11-00am at the Langdon Hills Golf Club, Lower Dunton Road RM14 3TY.

We enjoyed our last chat at The Magic Mushroom at Barleylands.

Do ring if you are interested.



Photos by Jenny Lees

Memory Lane

Sue Green

01375 676441

Jennifer Freeman

The meeting commenced with a catch-up chat on our individual activities over Christmas and New Year.

This month it was a bit of a mixed bag in memoirs recorded. It encompassed the poignant memoirs of a member's father and his life story.

Another member relayed her memories of Christmas, Christmas eve and presents received. Her wider family lived many miles away but nonetheless a train journey on Christmas morning brought the family together for Christmas lunch and family activities, jollity and family games in the evening not forgetting the singsong around the piano. Then on Boxing Day off to the panto for more family fun. The story of a family Christmas in the early 1940s seemed to come alive with the telling of this memoir.

A member who grew up locally told the life story and local employment of her family which was also very interesting.

The life story of a much-loved grandparent was shared by another member, including the stories of his life that he told her when she was younger – including some aspects of his part in World War 1 when he was only 18.

The memories of a Christmas in Wales were told which also included some of the old Welsh Christmas customs that had other members wincing a little when they were told about some of the customs such as for a boyfriend to whip the legs of his girlfriend with holly until they bled.

The meeting concluded with more old sayings and proverbs of our parents and grandparents that followed on from our topic covered in our December meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 5th February 2024

Mixed Craft Group

Marilyn Edgings 01375 677425

Barbara Purser 01375 677095

If you would like to come and join the group you would be most welcome, we have always got room for more members as we **use a large hall at The Baptist Church in Corringham. You can just turn up on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm** or get in touch with either myself (Marilyn) or Barbara.

Music Makers

Mo Wakeling 07902 649122

The new folk music group is up and running. We have ten members who play a range of instruments including small pipes, piano accordion, penny whistle, ukulele, guitar and percussion. Our first two sessions have allowed us to practise arrangements for some old Scottish and Irish songs and a couple of sea shanties. We are starting to introduce harmonies in our singing too. We are looking forward to expanding our repertoire over the next few sessions to include a wide range of folk and traditional songs.

We now meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the afternoons.

Old British Motor Cycle and Car Enthusiasts

Graham Edgings 01375 677425

Photography Group

Jenny Lees 01375 360786

Chris Henderson

. Please note, our February meeting will be on 16th of February instead of Friday 9th February as I have a hospital appointment.

On the 16th We will meet at the Mucking café where I hope we will be able to talk through any ideas for our visits in 2024.

MAKE-DO AND MEND INSPIRES

How can a WW2 campaign help us to live more sustainably?

Presented by  Volunteers

Free Exhibition 27 January to 22 February

SINGER

Free Family Events

Saturday 27 January
any time between 9:30 am- 1:00pm

Paint with make-up, knit & use a vintage sewing machine!

Got a piece of clothing which needs mending?

Bring it to our 'Make do & Mend' Advice Centre!

No need to book Suitable for all ages

Saturday 27th January 10:30-11:30am

Library Storytime and Activities
(including Scavenger Hunt and World Book Day design your own costume)

Ground Floor, Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DX

 thurrock.gov.uk

Play Reading 1

Beryl Woodcock

We meet on the last Friday of each month but we are full at the moment but if anyone would like to make another group, we would help you to get it up and running.

Play Reading, Beverage and Cake! (Tea , sticky nut cake , play reading and tears of laughter)

Deb Foster

01375 677971

Quilting

Carol Smith 07845 233640

The Quilting Group meet on the **first Monday in the month, Starting time 2 o clock until 4 o clock.** We do a lot of talking and laughing, as we are a very friendly group of like-minded people, with Tea and Coffee a must, and also Cake or Biscuits.

If you are interested why not come along and see what we do get up to.

No pressure will be put on you, if it's not what you want OK.

Please ring me on 01375 675998 and I will tell you where I live and how to find us.

Quiz

Sue Green

01375 676441

Ann Bailey

We currently have four quizzes on the agenda up to the end of April. We could do with more! If you see any adverts for up-and-coming charity quizzes in the local area, let us know the details. If you would like to join the mailing list, get in touch. The way the quizzes work is that I email out the details and you decide if you want to come and only email back if you do. Some people only attend one a year. It does not matter. It's your call' but if you are not on the list you won't know where we are going! It's a fun way to meet and socialise with different people.

Ann's Quiz

1. What is the 2nd highest mountain in the UK?
2. Which hills form the backbone of England?
3. And which hills form the backbone of Italy?
4. What rock forms the Giant's Causeway?
5. In which county would you find Glastonbury Tor?
6. Which major road links London and Gt Yarmouth?
7. What connects claimed, medical, decimal, camelid and declaim?
8. Which King was responsible for the Dissolution of the Monasteries?
9. What is the equivalent of the Northern Lights in the Southern Hemisphere?
10. Is Berwick on Tweed in England or Scotland?

Answers on page 27

Ramblers

Chris Gomm 07905 117622

Thameside Nature Discovery Park, Mucking at 10:30 on 22nd February.

This walk will start at the Visitors Centre where there is plenty of room for parking and do a circular walk taking in Stanford Warren and around our local countryside.

At the end of our walk I would suggest that we relax with a tea or coffee at the Visitors Centre.

I'm already looking forward to seeing you all there.

If you have any further enquiries, please feel free to contact me, Christine Gomm

Scrabble

Magda Norris

Our Scrabble group is **meeting fortnightly at the Gardner Hall in Fobbing**
We start at 1.30 pm for about 2 hours.

See Cribbage for dates our next meetings.

We always welcome new members of all abilities. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. The cost is £2.

Singing for Fun

Barb O'Grady 01375 670461

A fun-filled afternoon singing a wide range of songs. We now sing some with music accompaniment. We meet on the **third Monday of the month at the Evangelical Hall, Fobbing Road, Corringham, at 2pm.**

Please contact me for more details if interested, or just turn up!

Ten Pin Bowling

Jean Jardine 07551 0952211

Our next meeting is on Friday 1st March at the Hollywood Bowl at Lakeside .
We meet at **10.00 for coffee 10.30** to play; we pick up our coffee from M&S as the coffee machine at the bowling alley does not always work. The cost is £3.75 for two games. Please wear flat non slip shoes. All are welcome to join us.

Ten Pin Tuesday

Kevin Brice 07973349288

The Ten Pin Tuesday interest group meets on the third Tuesday of each month, other than during school holidays.

The group meets at the Hollywood Bowl, Lakeside for its ten pin bowling sessions. We have two games per session.

There is no Ten Pin Tuesday on 20th February as it is Half-Term.

Our next Ten Pin Tuesday Bowling session is on **Tuesday 19th March 2024.**

Meet for tea and coffee at 10.00am with bowling commencing at 10.30am.
New members welcome, *please email or ring first.*

Trips – Day

Chris Gomm 01375 406285/07905 117622

Jean Jardine 077551 952211

The details for all trips shown in the Newsletter are available on our website;
a handy form is at the back of this newsletter

Thursday 21st March

Royal Albert Hall tour followed by free time in Covent Garden

This promises to be a fabulous day out.

Starting with Coffee and pastries on arrival at the Royal Albert Hall we will enjoy discovering some of its history and how it was founded 150 years ago and the Royal love story that made it happen

Together with a guide we'll take a peek at the Royal areas of the Hall, see the breath-taking auditorium and the world famous stage.

Following this splendid tour we will return to our coach and head to Covent Garden where you will have free time to explore the Market, the shops, bars and Restaurants.

The Cost of this trip is an inclusive **£40.00** per head

The tickets will be on sale at our February meeting from 1:30. and payment can be made by cheques payable to "SLH U3A" or Cash.

The Pick-up Times are:-

Lampits Hill 8:10

Springhouse Club 8:20 (Meeting at the Bus Stop just below the Club)

The Oak 8:30

Thursday 2nd May '24

Tenth Anniversary Afternoon Tea

In order to celebrate our U3a's tenth anniversary we are holding an afternoon tea at **Ye Olde Plough House in Bulphan**. Arrival time 12:30 for a 13:00 sit down.

As many of you will be aware this is an excellent venue and should we be lucky enough to have a sunny day we will be able to have the doors open onto the gardens which are very pleasant indeed.

For this is a special event our committee has kindly agreed a subsidy.

This brings the cost per head to a very reasonable £23.00 per head.

The tickets will be available from 1:30 at our March general meeting.

Payments can be made in cash or by cheque payable to "SLH U3A"

Theatre Visits

Tina Smith 07899915184

Carol Lindsell 07906436445

Peter Pan

Thank you everyone who supported us with our visit to the London Palladium to see Peter Pan and judging from your kind comments the majority of you really enjoyed the day.

However, I must apologise to everyone regarding the tickets. I made a mistake in informing you all that some people's tickets would be in the Dress Circle when in fact they were in the Grand Circle. I understand that some people also like to have a paper ticket to keep as a memento, unfortunately theatres will now only send e tickets and that is why we gave everyone a note with their seat number. It also means that when we do have a theatre trip we have to enter "en masse" as the electronic tickets are scanned and therefore we have to wait a short while for the theatre staff to sort out our large group We try our utmost to accommodate particular requests e.g. an aisle seat etc. but this is not always possible.

Our next theatre trip is to see Tina The Musical on Thursday 7th March. All tickets are sold.

Pick up times are:

9.30am Lampits Hill

9.45am Springhouse Rd. bus stop

10.0am The Oaks

We would like your thoughts about any future theatre trips and people have suggested Hamilton and Mrs. Doubtfire. If we get enough interest then we will book for later in the year.

In the past we have taken deposits but would ask that in future full payment is made at the time of booking as theatres will only give us a few weeks to pay in full. Payment can now be made by cheque, cash or credit/debit card.

We look forward to seeing you again.



Unexpected Encounter

Our u3a Theatre group, after Christmas, organised a trip to the London Palladium to see the Pantomime 'Peter Pan'. We had a while before the pantomime so thought about a coffee and lunch. We wandered into Carnaby Street and were surprised to see Craig Revel Horwood and a film crew. Craig approached us and asked whether we liked hot or cold milk on our Weetabix! We each answered and were asked if we minded if our filmed answers were used in a future promotion.

We went for a coffee in the cafe behind the filming and whilst in there Craig came in. He agreed to the photograph

being taken with Monica, Linda and Jane. In conversation with him 'Strictly' was of course mentioned and we enlightened him on our u3a activities. He had never heard about a u3a but he is of course old enough to join!

The pantomime was as usual, very good and entertaining, so thanks to the organisers Tina and Carol. A good day out all round! *Photo by Michael Farman*

Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Ben Macdui | 2.The Pennines | 3.The Apennines. |
| 4.Basalt | 5. Somerset | 6. A12. |
| 7.They are all anagrams of each other. | 8.Henry V111 | |
| 9.Aurora Australis, or, Southern Lights | 10.In England | |

UKE3A

Madeline Beesley 01375678576

The Ukelele Group, "Uke3A" continues to practice and increase their repertoire with some new songs.

We are lucky to have two more bookings for February by a couple of Ladies Groups which we will enjoy doing.

We have planned for some workshops at our rehearsals after the February bookings. One of our players Terry Allen is a very experienced musician and will be showing us more chords and tips. So onwards and upwards!

Wine Appreciation

Graham Hodgson 01375 675588

Jean Jardine 077551 552211



Here is a photo from our wine tasting meal at the Bull in old Corringham it was a lovely meal with good company and as you can guess a few glasses of wine.

Photo by Jean Jardine

Ann's Column

Ann Bailey

Another book I received was *Rivets, Trivets and Galvanised Buckets*, by Tom Fort. I grew up in East Suffolk and I remember there being such a shop in Woodbridge. One went down a couple of steps into the shop and then ducked because of items hanging from the ceiling. When we moved to Wickham Market there was a hardware shop on The Hill, and if it didn't sell it, it didn't exist. You had to be careful how you moved round the shop, for fear of knocking items off the shelves. Shops like this are Aladdin's caves. I find craft shops are like that, shelves of wool and materials, another world. I won't apologise for promoting books, be they mine or in shops and libraries. Where else can you find out things or lose yourself in another world!?

I've started thinking about my garden for this year. Yesterday I found a little group of aconites, a lovely bright yellow. Anyone would think I've got a large area, but it's more handkerchief size. It supports a lilac, an apple, a holly and a rowan tree, and I love to fill it with colour. The comfrey tends to take over, but I'm thinking of foxgloves this year. Simon has some growing in his greenhouse, so expect I'll get some.

I'm watching *Countryfile* whilst I write this. It's about the Wetlands area in S. Wales. It is so good that there are many areas around Gt. Britain where wildlife can thrive and be protected from humans, though, sadly not from flying predators. I think coastal areas take a lot of beating. Maybe it's the atmosphere, the wind and the sound of the waves, and the enormity of the skies and waters. Storm Isha is beginning to make its presence felt, so time to batten down the hatches and have a cup of tea.

Group Timetable				
	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Monday				
am	Golf Coffee & Cake	London Walks Golf	Art Group Golf	Golf.
pm	Quilting. O.B.M.& Car Uke3a Memory Lane	London Walks	Singing for Fun. Uke3a	Local History
Tuesday				
am			10 Pin Tuesday Art at Mucking	
pm	Mixed Craft. Italian Beginners.	Scrabble/Cribbage	Italian Beginners.	Scrabble/Cribbage
Wednesday				
am	Flower Arranging Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Flower Arranging Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1	Boules (Springhouse) Line Dancing 1
pm	Canasta. Boules pm	Canasta. Boules pm Singles Lunch	Family History Canasta. Boules pm	Canasta Boules pm
Thursday				
am			Ambling	Rambling
pm	French conversation.	SLH & District u3a General Meeting	French Conversation Wine Appreciation	T.C.& Play Reading <i>Couples Lunch</i>
Friday				
am	PÉTANQUE Ten Pin Bowling 1 Lunch & Chat.	PÉTANQUE Photography	PÉTANQUE Gallery Visits	PÉTANQUE Birdwatching Playreading 1
pm	Lunch & Chat.	Music Makers Photography	Gallery Visits	Music Makers

LINE DANCING 2 meets every fortnight on Tuesday morning

Contact Details for Interest Groups

Groups with NO spaces have been highlighted. Please check with the leaders if you would like to join a group. Bk - need to book a place.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ambling	Tessa Duggan	01375 670212	
	Jenny Radford	01375 676338	
Art	Jim Westgarth	01375 859432	
	Sally Taylor		
Bird Watching	Dave Snow	074900 69740	
Book Group	Ann Bailey		
	Dawn Lloyd-Warne	01375 461885	
Boules (Wed.am)	Jean&Dave Jardine	01375 679410	
Boules (Wed pm)	Paul Brice	07788 452852	
Boules/Pétanque (Friday)	Colin &Carol Munro	07770 854318	
Canasta	Pauline Kerridge	01375 462232	
Coffee, Cake & Chat	Jean Jardine	01375 679410	
	Beryl Smith	07486 020009	
Couples Lunch (bk)	Dave & Jean Angus	07711359127	
Cribbage	John Green	01375676441	
Day Trips (bk)	Chris Gomm	07905 117622	
	Jean Jardine	077551 952211	

Family History	Sue Green	01375676441	
	Peter Craggs	01375 643749	
Flower Arranging	Christine Lambert	01375 678131	
	Linda Tilbury	07928 221626	
French Conversation	Diane Wallace		
	Sally Taylor		
Gallery Visits (bk)	Jenny Lees	01375 360786	
	Chris Henderson		
Golf	Paul Brice	07788 452852	
Holiday Travel (bk)	Jean Jardine	077551 952211	
	Carol Smith	07845 233640	
Italian	Verena Carter	0708513453	
Line Dancing 1 (Wed)	Susan Moss	07905314987	
	Beverley Brice	07522368810	
	Christine Hartnell	07771554174	
Line Dancing 2 (every other Tues)	Carol Munro	07766 035554	
	Sue Moss	07905 314987	
Local History	Barbara Ward	07748 151735	
Local Research	Diane Wallace		
	Sue Green	01375676441	
London Walks Bk	Dave Snow	07490 069740	
	Brian McDonald		
Lunch and Chat (bk)	Chris Brown	01708 852023	
Memory Lane	Sue Green	01375 676441	
	Jennifer Freeman		

Mixed Craft	Marilyn Edgings	01375 677425	
	Barbara Purser	01375 677095	
Music Makers	Mo Wakeling	07902 649122	
Old British (bk) Motorcycle & Car Enthusiast	Graham Edgings	01375 677425	
Photography	Jenny Lees	01375 360786	
	Chris Henderson		
Play Reading 1	Beryl Woodcock		
T. C. & Play Reading	Deb Foster	01375 677971	
Quilting	Carol Smith	07845 233640	
Quiz bk	Ann Bailey		
	Sue Green	01375 676441	
Ramblers	Chris Gomm	07905117622	
Scrabble	Magda Norris		
Singing for Fun	Barb O'Grady	01375 670461	
Singles Lunch	Christine Codd		
Ten Pin Bowling (bk)	Jean Jardine	077551 952211	
Ten Pin Tuesday (bk)	Kevin Brice	07973349288	
Theatre shows (bk)	Tina Smith	07899915184	
	Carol Lindsell	07906436445	
UKE3A	Madeline Beesley	01375 678576	
Wine Appreciation	Graham Hodgson	01375 675588	
	Jean Jardine	077551 952211	

Contact details for Stanford-le-Hope and District u3a

Chair – Bernie Smith

Vice-Chair – Kevin Brice

Treasurer – Paul Brice

Secretary – Janet Deeney

Membership Secretary – Richard Fox

Newsletter Editor – Chris Henderson

Interest Groups' Co-Ordinator

Assistant Group Co-ordinator – Marilyn Edgings

Welfare and Disabilities Co-Ordinator – Colin Munro

Policy Documents Administrator – Michael Mille

Advance Notice Email Co-Ordinator – Chris Henderson

Stanford-le-Hope and District u3a Website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/slh>

National u3a Organisation

www.u3a.org.uk

Tel 020-8466-6139

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Stanford-Le-Hope and District EVENT BOOKING FORM

Event (Trip/visit/show)	
Date of Event	
Your name	
Membership Number	
Contact Telephone number – Essential	
Mobile Number to be used on day of the Trip	
Email address	
Cheque/Cash value* <i>(Indicate if it is cheque or cash)</i>	

*Separate payment required for each event

If you are booking for more than one person, please list clearly their names and membership numbers here.

Pick up point *(If travelling by coach please indicate which pick up point you prefer)*

Lampits Hill (Bus Shelter)	Springhouse Club Corringham (Bus Shelter)	The Oak (By the bus stop) Grays
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